

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV) , P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2009, AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME,

4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix 85012

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Mel Brody with proper ceremonies.

The roll was called and a quorum established for conducting business.

Presentation of Certificate to Gary Fredricks for service as Chairman, Unified Arizona Veterans, 2007-2009.

Presentation by Peter Means, Director of Development, ASU Gammage Auditorium, and COL Chuck Van Dam, USA, Ret., regarding the Military Ticket Fund (goal: \$50,000, funds raised are used to purchase tickets). This is a program started a year ago of presenting Gammage show tickets to military families while their soldiers are deployed. Tickets are being distributed already.

Motion to approve the Minutes made by Bob Delker and seconded by George Cushing. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: Letters requesting to join the UAV have been received from Tempe Veteran Foundation and the Jacque Jackson Chapter of National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS). These requests will be voted on in New Business.

Treasurer's Report presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Motion to accept the treasurer's report made by Lew Bradley and seconded by Jim Katzenberger. Motion carried. Jesse also reported that 33 veterans organizations have renewed, including 8 organizations at this meeting.

REPORTS

1. VA Medical Center, Patient Advocate Karen Sparks reported that Gabriel Perez, Director, VAMC, arrived in July. The Thunderbird Clinic at 25th and Dunlap just opened and the phones are working. Three veterans received Gold medals at the recent National Wheelchair Games. Three doctors have been nominated for recognition. Recent visitors to the VAMC included Garth Brown, Pearl Harbor Survivor; the Navajo Code Talkers; General Shinseki, Secretary of the VA; and Connie Stevens, actress. Judy Hatch inquired about the backlog at the Eye Clinic. Karen responded that the VAMC is trying ways to reduce the backlog.

2. Dept of Veterans' Services, Deputy Director Mike Klier: Work continues to locate lands for cemeteries needed in the following areas: within a 70-mile radius of Sierra Vista, Marana, Oracle, and Oro Valley; Camp Navajo near Flagstaff; and Yuma, Mojave County (Laughlin/Bullhead City area). Funds are now available for a Veteran Home in Tucson. Arizona's Troops to Teachers program which involves veterans becoming educators in rural areas, is ranked 3rd in the nation. Progress is being made in providing shelter to homeless veterans (men and women), including the new Mary Ellen's Place for homeless women veterans at Hatcher and 3rd. The Legislature approved the \$150,000 needed to complete the installation of the Enduring Freedom Memorial. The Legislative also approved the expanded coverage of the Military Family Relief Fund. The State Veteran Home with approximately 165 residents was recently certified.

Mike Clemenson asked about expanding the State Veterans Commission from 9 commissioners to 15, the number of counties in our state. Mike Klier replied that there is a State statute limiting the number of commissioners to 9.

Bo Bohach asked about two black books which were stored in a safe locker, Mike Klier will check on this.

3. UAV Board of Directors – Chairman Brody reported that Governor Brewer approved 19 inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2009:

Bahill, S. Larry of Tucson

Chorpenning, Patrick F. of Peoria

Fenstermacher, Gene of Sierra Vista

Hess, William Parker of Sierra Vista

Houston, Jerry E. of Sun City

Hutson, John G. "Hut" of Tempe

*** Jenkins, William C.** of Scottsdale

Lucier, David F. of Tempe

Martinez, Peter of Tempe

*** McDowell, Joseph J.** of Goodyear

Sams, Jon E. of Tucson

Santillan, Jr., Alfonso of Prescott

Schneider, Carl G. of Scottsdale

Schneider, Joseph A. of Sun Lakes

Schoggen, Joe G. of Litchfield Park

Sentz, Jr., John D. of Gilbert

Sisco, Joan E. of Phoenix

***† Suhler, Simon** of Prescott

Symmes Kenneth R. of Sierra Vista

* - Deceased

† - Medal of Honor

The Planning Committee has been meeting regularly and all tasks have been assigned. The Induction Ceremony and Luncheon are scheduled for Friday, October 30th at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium and the public is invited. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., with lunch preceding the Induction Ceremony. Deadline for registering online at www.avhof.org is October 23rd. Arizona Veterans Hall of Famers register online as members. All others register as non-members. Lunch cost of \$30 changes to \$40 on October 1st. Guests who do not have access to the Internet, please contact Jesse Gersten at 480.802.0007.

Chairman Brody asked for a volunteer who is computer savvy to help with the printed program and AVHOF biography book. Judy Hatch volunteered.

4. UAV Legislative Committee – Chair Carol Hamburger announced that she will be stepping down as Chair, UAV Legislative Committee and that Bob Delker is her replacement. Bob reported that he has identified two venues for the Friday, February 12, 2010 Copper Shield Ceremony: the Commemorative Air Force Museum and the Dobson Inn, both located in Mesa. The rental fee at the CAF Museum is \$500 and a caterer needs to be arranged. The Dobson Inn can seat 300 and the tentative dinner cost will be \$30 per person (of which \$10 will be dedicated to scholarships). Motion made by Lew Bradley to hold the event at the Dobson Inn, seconded by Gary Fredricks. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. UAV New Members – Chairman Brody reported that the Board recommends approval of the Tempe Veterans Foundation's request to join UAV. Motion made by Gary Fredricks, seconded by Jesse Gersten. Motion carried.

Chairman Brody reported that the Board recommends approval of the Jacque Jackson Chapter of the National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS)'s request to join UAV. Motion made by Mike Clemenson, seconded by Judy Hatch. Motion carried.

2. Secretary Culbertson offered to send an invitation to VAMC Director Gabriel Perez to speak to the UAV. There was a high level of interest in inviting Mr. Perez. Carol will send a letter proposing two meeting dates.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

1. Donna Bleyle announced a 9/11 Remembrance at 5 p.m. at US VETS Initiative.

2. MOWW event on Sept 13th at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC, 2-4 p.m. indoors.

3. Judy Hatch announced the Traveling Vietnam Wall will be at the Phoenix Memorial Cemetery the weekend of Sept. 18 through 20.

4. **The Chandler Veterans Expo is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 26th with 60 vendor tables.**
5. **David Lucier announced he has free tickets to a Comedy Fundraiser benefiting Boots for the Troops on Friday, Oct. 16th in Ahwatukee.**
6. **Dick Collis announced the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade on Wed., Nov. 11th. There will be also be a cookout at the State Veteran Home.**
7. **Carol Hamburger announced the American Legion's Military and Veterans Appreciation Night with the Phoenix Suns will be on Veterans Day (11/11/09). Game between the Phoenix Suns and the New Orleans Hornets at 8:30 p.m. at the US Airways Center. \$5 of the \$32 package is a contribution to the American Legion Veteran and Family Assistance program.**
8. **Mike Clemenson announced Retiree Appreciation Day at Luke AFB on Sat., Nov. 21st. Organizations can get a free table and 2 chairs. Set up will be Nov. 20 between 7:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**
9. **50/50 Raffle winner was Dick Collis, \$31.00; with \$31.00 to the treasury.**

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

1. **The next UAV meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009.**
2. **Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.**
3. **The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. with a closing salute to the flag.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Carol Culbertson

Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans

Office/fax 602.943.7834